



**Advancing women
Advancing transportation**
> Atlanta

MAY 31, 2021



WTS Atlanta Education and Mentorship

It's May, which means school graduations and that next step for so many transitioning from school into the working world. In celebration of this milestone, we are focusing on WTS Atlanta's educational and mentorship programs in our newsletter this month. We support educational institutions throughout the region and the professional growth of our members who are just entering the transportation industry. Read on to learn more and also find out how you can get involved.

WTS ATLANTA
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Making Connections: Mentor Protégé Program

Every two years, the WTS Atlanta Chapter offers our incredibly popular Mentor Protégé Program, which matches women in the early stages of their careers with mid- to senior-level professionals. The program provides a roadmap for developing these partnerships and hosts valuable sessions with transportation leaders so that mentors and protégés can learn from seasoned professionals and further expand their networks. This successful program has resulted in creating partnerships lasting long after the program's completion, leading to new job opportunities, leadership experiences, and career growth for both the protégés and mentors.

The 2020 program transitioned to virtual and extended into 2021, making it a bit different, but no less rewarding than previous programs. Program co-chairs Jordyn Jones, Iris Ortiz and Cara Vojdani navigated through these challenges planning valuable virtual events and fun happy hours to facilitate learning and networking. The program hosted the following sessions with incredibly dynamic speakers. Thank you to all our speakers, participants and co-chairs for rising to the challenge and making this Mentor Protégé Program as incredible as all the rest.

- **Succeeding Virtually with Donna Adamo, Arcadis**
- **Networking with Ann Hanlon, Perimeter CIDs**
- **Women in Leadership Panel with Rhonda Allen, MARTA, Marsha Anderson Bomar, MARTA, Nancy Juneau, Juneau Construction Company, and Jennifer Zahn, Modern Mobility Partners**
- **Negotiation and Branding with Rukiya Thomas, Atkins**
- **Conflict Resolution with Jeff Conrad, HNTB**
- **#IamRemarkable Workshop with Tamae Partain, Arcadis (coming in June)**



The program is currently planning a fall graduation for the Mentor Protégé class. Interested in applying for the next program in 2022? Become a WTS member and stay tuned for details coming soon on how to apply.

Supporting the Next Generation of Transportation Leaders: Georgia Tech WTS Chapter

WTS Atlanta is proud to partner with the Georgia Tech WTS Chapter each year to coordinate joint activities and offer mentorship and scholarship opportunities. Despite the pandemic, the student chapter continued to be very active throughout the year, hosting numerous activities for students.

Some highlights of the all-virtual events included a women's professional development panel, a faculty chat event, a transportation organization social event and a salary negotiation panel in partnership with WTS Atlanta. The chapter also provided funding to students to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) conference in January.

The chapter created and distributed a student needs survey to better understand how the chapter can benefit transportation students. Thank you to Georgia Tech's WTS President Katelyn Iles and WTS Atlanta liaison Sara Lynch for coordinating the chapters work together this year. And congratulations to Katelyn on graduating in 2021!

We'd also like to congratulate and welcome Becca Kiriazes as the incoming Georgia Tech WTS president. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership together.





technology, which are the stepping stones to exciting careers that can change the face of the transportation industry. In addition to the incredible activities, tours, and mentorships happening at the local WTS chapter level, WTS also offers its flagship Transportation YOU conference --an opportunity for select Transportation YOU participants from across the country and their mentors to gather together to experience once-in-a-lifetime tours, meet-ups with White House administrators, and cool challenges and breakout sessions culminating in a spectacular networking reception.

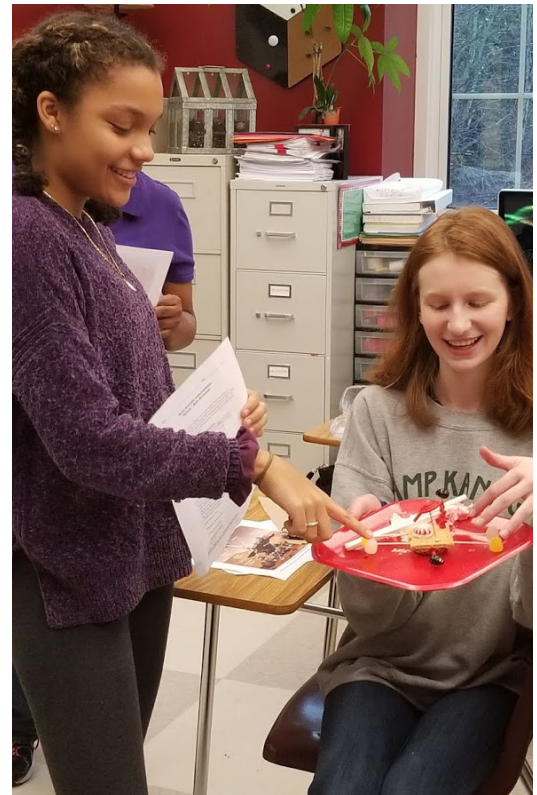
Investing in Education

Annual Scholarship Event

WTS Atlanta and the WTS Foundation award scholarships to women who are pursuing careers in transportation through technical college, undergraduate, and graduate programs. The scholarships are competitive and based on the applicant's specific transportation goals, academic record and transportation-related activities or job skills. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Each fall WTS Atlanta opens applications for these scholarships and awards them at our annual scholarship luncheon.

Transportation YOU

Transportation YOU is a hands-on, interactive, mentoring program that offers young girls ages 13-18 an introduction to a wide variety of transportation careers. Through the program, WTS chapters work to make a difference in the lives of young girls by offering programs and activities that will spark their interest in all modes of transportation and encourage them to take courses in math, science, and



GET INVOLVED

If you'd like to participate in any of these WTS Atlanta educational programs, please contact Cara Vojdani at cara.vojdanis@arcadis.com to learn more.

Members Making News

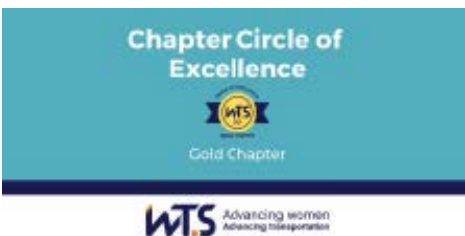


Congratulations to WTS Atlanta member and past President Claudia Bilotto, who was recently promoted to the Southern States District Leader at WSP. Claudia joined WSP in 2014 as the Planning and Environment Manager in the Atlanta office and has led Georgia's Transportation business since late 2017.

Her 22 years of industry experience include managing state and regional long-range plans, multi-modal countywide and corridor studies, roadway, rail, and transit feasibility studies, environmental documentation, and stakeholder and public participation strategy development and implementation for clients including departments of transportation, transit agencies, and county and city governments.

WTS Atlanta Making News

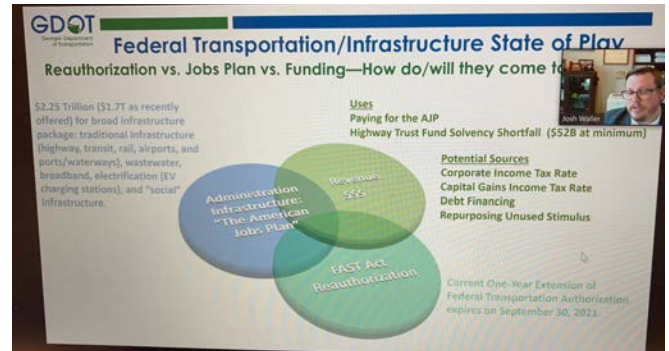
WTS Atlanta is honored to announce that WTS International has once again named us a Gold Chapter, the highest designation in the WTS Chapter Circle of Excellence. Thank you to our leadership team, members, and sponsors for your support!



Events

Thank You to Our Legislative Briefing Presenters

A big thank you to John Bayalis of ARC and Josh Waller of GDOT for an in-depth discussion on transportation legislation, funding opportunities and the future of mobility in our state! We look forward to continuing to work together to move transportation forward!



Up Next: Georgia DOT Board Breakfast



Plans are in the works for our annual Georgia DOT Board Breakfast. We are planning for a safe, in-person event on June 17th. Please be on the lookout for more details coming soon.





WHY I'M A MEMBER

"I joined WTS to further my professional development and engage locally with others in the transportation industry. Being a member has given me the opportunity to connect with and learn more about the WTS community through various programming and events."

Tu Nguyen
Kimley-Horn

"I joined WTS for the Mentor/Protegee program. Through this program I have been able to meet new people and learn valuable information through the mentoring sessions."

Jessica Ridley
HNTB



GET SOCIAL

We love connecting with our WTS community on social media. Please follow, like and share WTS Atlanta!



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



Arcadis is proud to serve as WTS Atlanta's Presenting sponsor for 2020 and 2021. Arcadis is a global firm, with our largest North American office located in Atlanta. We are the world's leading company delivering sustainable design, engineering and consulting solutions for natural and built assets, including transportation. With sustainability at the heart of everything we do, our focus is on maximizing our impact aimed at improving quality of life. The solutions we develop address important societal challenges around resilience, places and mobility. We are proud to do this work for so many of our transportation partners in the Atlanta region and to support the incredibly important work that WTS is doing to advance women in this industry.

Our focus on quality of life includes the health, safety, and well-being of our employees. We support opportunities for our employees to grow, connect and share through affinity groups such as the Black Employee Network (BEN) and Women's Network, monthly events covering important issues like mental health and celebrations for Black History, Women's History and PRIDE Months, and forums to discuss issues and concerns around timely topics including diversity and inclusion. The following are some examples of these opportunities we offer at Arcadis.

Black Employee Network

Arcadis' Black Employee Network is dedicated to fostering a culture that promotes and embraces diversity and equal opportunity, inspiring and empowering Black employees through strategic, inclusive recruitment and retention practices, professional development, and career advancement. The Atlanta BEN group launched in 2020 and has participated in a variety of activities including working on a clean up of the McDaniel Branch Wetlands, participating in a Georgia Tech Career Fair, raising money for Star-C Atlanta an organization dedicated to affordable housing and education, and hosting virtual events during Black History Month. WTS members Deborah Mobula and Jordyn Jones serve as BEN executive board members.



Real Talk Series

With the incredibly important focus that has been placed on racism, violence and diversity issues throughout our country in recent times, the Atlanta office launched the Real Talk Series, a forum to share experiences, concerns, research, and news in an effort to inspire dialogue and provoke thought and understanding among participants. Arcadians have shared enlightening perspectives and opinions and have opened up opportunities to grow through these discussions. Program organizers and participants have focused on creating a space to talk about race and open the way for powerful learning and change.

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